

LOOK OUT—HORSEMAN'S BACK IN BUSINESS!

A hat-trick as Hitchin get hit for six

Wycombe Wanderers 6; Hitchin Town 1

WITH three minutes to go and six goals in the Hitchin net, Wycombe Wanderers' Len Worley took time out on Tuesday night to treat the Loakes Park fans and the humiliated visitors from Herts to an exhibition of ball-juggling. It might sound unseemly and, with the Wanderers' first two Isthmian League points so securely stuffed in the bag, unnecessary, to indulge in such time-wasting. And yet it was understandable.

For in a game that was harder in every sense than the score-line suggests, Worley had taken tremendous punishment from an often desperate Hitchin defence as he will-o'-the-wisped about the right wing, drawing their attention away from the menace in the middle, Tony Horseman and Keith Samuels.

Yes, goal-happy Horseman is back in the shooting business again. The Hitchin defence was bewitched and bewildered by some of it.

Mind you, Wycombe's rearguard did not merit full marks except young Peter Eyres and John Maskell. But there was a vast difference—and Hitchin did not have a Horseman.

Indeed, the Herts side could have been a goal up after 12 minutes when, from an apparently off-side position, their outside-left Fulkes, with Maskell drawn, hit the upright from eight yards and Rundle cleared off the line.

But it was not until 90 seconds into the second half—by which time the Wanderers were four goals up—that they managed to capitalise on the laxness of the home defence.

TONY'S CHASE

Despite their marked supremacy over the Hitchin rearguard, the Wanderers missed at least as many scoring chances as they took, and it was not until the 21st minute that the first goal came, when Horseman chased in to challenge 'keeper Turner and centre-half Gibbs and roll the ball in while they were still wondering who should have done what.

Three minutes later, in an attack initiated on the half-way line by Peter Roystone, Horseman made the second goal with a diagonal pass into the box which Worley had only to chest down and net.

After Rundle had got in the way of a tremendous 25-yard drive by Hitchin's right-half Waldock and Charlie Gale had banged a longshot over the Hitchin bar, Horseman scored his second in the 37th minute when, after dummieing two defenders inside the penalty area, he shot into the top of the net.

PANICKING

The fourth fell to Samuels when, after Barry Baker had run the ball into the middle of a panicking defence and Horseman's shot had sent Turner scrambling on hands and knees along his line, he ran in to bang home.

Almost on the interval inside-right Gladwin wasted a great chance for Hitchin, but Waldock made no mistake in the second minute after half-time, when outside-right Gill pulled him back a perfect cross from near the corner flag.

Within three minutes Roystone had made it 5-1 when he thumped in the rebound after Samuels had hit the bar, and with 13 minutes to go, Horseman completed the scoring and his hat-trick, from a Samuels' pass.